

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology**  
**Hearing on “Oversight of FirstNet and Emergency Communications”**  
**March 14, 2013**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Today's hearing will examine how we communicate in times of emergency. The first panel will focus on implementing provisions in our spectrum legislation to create a nationwide, interoperable public safety network. The law could raise as much as \$7 billion for first responders, help build out the communications system, and still clear as much as 120 megahertz of spectrum to meet growing demand for wireless broadband. To do so, however, the FCC must refrain from excluding potential bidders and maximize the amount of spectrum it auctions and the revenue it raises. We must also ensure that state and local governments play an integral role in designing this network.

The second panel will focus on how we communicate with our citizens and they with us when danger strikes. The emergency alert and 9-1-1 systems are pivotal links when the unfortunate happens. I want to welcome today my friend Diane Kniowski, President and General Manager of WOOD TV, WOTV, and WXSP. These stations do a tremendous job of keeping our communities in southwest Michigan informed both in times of emergency and during our day-to-day lives.

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